

Introduced by Senator Hueso

May 6, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40—Relative to Korean War Armistice Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 40, as introduced, Hueso. Korean War Armistice Day.

This measure would proclaim July 27, 2013, as Korean War Armistice Day. It would urge Californians to observe the anniversary and call upon them to honor and give thanks to Korean War veterans. It would also urge Governor Jerry Brown to proclaim July 27, 2013, as Korean War Armistice Day and instruct all state departments, agencies, interest groups, organizations, and individuals to fly the United States flag at half-mast on July 27, 2013, in memory of veterans from this state who died as a result of their service in Korea.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The peoples of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and
- 2 the State of California have maintained close ties since September
- 3 9, 1945, when Colonel Roy A. Green, a Sacramentan commanding
- 4 the California National Guard's 184th Infantry Regiment (2nd
- 5 California Infantry) accepted the surrender of Imperial Japanese
- 6 forces south of the 38th parallel; and
- 7 WHEREAS, On June 25, 1950, the ROK was attacked by the
- 8 armed forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- 9 (DPRK); and
- 10 WHEREAS, On June 30, 1950, President Harry S. Truman
- 11 authorized elements of the United States Army's 24th Division
- 12 stationed in Japan to intervene in the invasion of the ROK, a move

1 that resulted in the near destruction of Task Force Smith, a
2 reinforced infantry battalion comprised of fewer than 500
3 personnel; and

4 WHEREAS, On June 29, Seoul, the capital of the ROK, fell for
5 the first time, with those ROK forces north of the Han River being
6 captured or killed; and

7 WHEREAS, The first major battle between American and DPRK
8 forces at Taejon resulted in the 24th Infantry Division experiencing
9 heavy losses, including its division commander, a Berkeley
10 resident, University of California graduate, and former member
11 of the California National Guard, Major General William F. Dean,
12 who was captured by the DPRK, but not before he displayed
13 personal heroism, including destroying a DPRK tank with a
14 “bazooka,” leading to his award of the Medal of Honor following
15 his release in 1953; and

16 WHEREAS, After being pushed into a small perimeter around
17 the port city of Pusan located at the southeastern tip of the Korean
18 peninsula, United Nations forces under the command of United
19 States Army General Douglas MacArthur executed perhaps the
20 most innovative and successful amphibious counterattack in world
21 history at the port of Inchon on September 15, 1950, resulting in
22 United Nations forces gaining the offensive and pushing the DPRK
23 forces north of the 38th parallel towards the Yalu River along the
24 border with China; and

25 WHEREAS, Units of the California National Guard were
26 activated for the conflict, including, on August 21, 1950, the 719th
27 Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion, which was ordered into
28 active duty for service in Korea, with this recently racially
29 desegregated unit being followed on September 11, 1950, by the
30 1401st and 1402nd Engineer Combat Battalions, which were still
31 segregated; and

32 WHEREAS, The 719th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion
33 was returned to California state control from active federal military
34 service on April 14, 1952, and the 1401st and 1402nd Engineer
35 Combat Battalions were returned to state control from active
36 federal service on January 17, 1955, 18 months after the armistice,
37 as fully desegregated units; and

38 WHEREAS, On September 1, 1950, the California National
39 Guard’s 40th Infantry Division was again called into active federal
40 service. Departing out of Oakland Army Base and Fort Mason in

1 San Francisco in late March 1951, the division deployed to Japan
2 for occupation duty and combat training, including nine months
3 of participation in amphibious, air transportability, and live fire
4 training from Mount Fuji to Sendai; and

5 WHEREAS, On October 10, 1950, the California National
6 Guard's 196th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, along with two other
7 National Guard squadrons from Florida and Georgia, were
8 federalized and formed the 116th Fighter-Bomber Wing at George
9 Air Force Base, Victorville, California; and

10 WHEREAS, On October 14, 1950, three Chinese field armies
11 supported by aircraft from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
12 crossed the Yalu River and engaged the United Nations forces on
13 October 25th, 1950; and

14 WHEREAS, On November 27, 1950, four Chinese field armies
15 attacked the 1st Marine and 7th Infantry Divisions at the Chosin
16 Reservoir, leading to a historic battle that resulted in the destruction
17 of 10 Chinese Infantry Divisions and the successful breakout and
18 withdrawal by sea of American forces that concluded on December
19 24, 1950; and

20 WHEREAS, On July 10, 1951, the 196th Fighter-Bomber
21 Squadron departed San Diego on the aircraft carrier USS Windham
22 Bay with its 18 F-84E "Thunderjet" fighter-bombers, arriving at
23 Yokosuka Naval Base on 24 July 1951; the squadron commenced
24 combat operations from Taegu Air Base, ROK, on December 28,
25 1951, and on June 10, 1952, the squadron stood down and was
26 relieved of its assignment, returning to California and reforming
27 at the Ontario Municipal Airport in January 1953; and

28 WHEREAS, On December 23, 1951, the 40th Infantry Division
29 received alert orders to move to Korea, where, in February 1951,
30 it relieved the 24th Infantry Division and subsequently participated
31 in the battles of Sandbag Castle, the Punchbowl, and Heartbreak
32 Ridge; the division suffered 376 soldiers killed in action and 1457
33 wounded, earning the ROK Presidential Unit Citation and three
34 individual Medals of Honor; and

35 WHEREAS, On July 27, 1953, a ceasefire between the United
36 Nations and the DPRK took effect. Although over 53,000 ROK
37 and United Nation troops, including more than 8,000 Americans,
38 remain missing in action; and

39 WHEREAS, With a state of war still existing between the United
40 Nations and the DPRK, the California Army and Air National

1 Guard continue in the active defense of the ROK by participating
2 in Team Spirit exercises, which ensures tactical and logistical
3 interoperability between the respective Armed Forces of the United
4 States and the ROK in the event that major combat operations or
5 other emergencies occur in the future; now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
7 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature urges Californians to
8 observe the anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Day and
9 hereby proclaims July 27, 2013, as Korean War Armistice Day,
10 calling upon all Californians to observe this with appropriate
11 ceremonies and activities that honor and give thanks to our
12 distinguished Korean War veterans; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges Governor Jerry Brown to
14 proclaim July 27, 2013, as Korean War Armistice Day and instruct
15 all state departments, agencies, interest groups, organizations, and
16 individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-mast on July
17 27, 2013, in memory of the Californians who died as a result of
18 their service in Korea; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
20 this resolution to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Military
21 Department, and to the author for appropriate distribution.